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DISMISS STORTFORD
Bishop's Stortford Urban District
Council

ANNUAL REPORT

of the

Medical Officer of Health

and the

Sanitary Inspector

for the Year 1953

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Council

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Members of the Council, 1953-1954

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Councillor H. F. ROWLES, J.P., C.C.
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Public Health Department

EIRWEN M. JONES, M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H.,
Medical Officer of Health

A. L. GOOD, F.S.I.A., M.R.San.I., A.M.I.S.E., A.I.Hsg.
Chief Sanitary Inspector and Housing Officer
Inspector of Meat and other Foods

D. L. EVANS, M.S.I.A., A.R.San.I.,
Additional Sanitary Inspector

H. F. B. NICKOLDS

A. TURNER

Bishop's Stortford Urban District Council

Health Department,
The Council House,
Bishop's Stortford,
August, 1954

*To the Chairman and Members,
Bishop's Stortford Urban District Council*

MR. CHAIRMAN, LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,

We have the honour to submit the following Report for the year 1953, on the health of the Bishop's Stortford Urban District which has been drawn up on the lines indicated in the Circular issued by the Ministry of Health.

The Registrar General's population estimate of 13,210 is slightly lower than the figure for the previous year. This is rather surprising but it may well be that the Registrar General is adjusting the population estimates in the light of more accurate information gleaned from the 1951 Census.

The death rate is higher than last year and the birth rate lower. The infantile mortality rate for the town appears alarming even when compared with the figures for the County Boroughs which usually contain areas with the highest infant mortality rates. It is for this reason that special comment is made later on when dealing with the causes of death.

There is, however, no need for alarm and the residents of Bishop's Stortford can derive much comfort from the fact that they are fortunate to live in a healthy community.

We desire to express our thanks to the Chairman and Members of the Council, in grateful acknowledgement of their continued help throughout the year.

We are,
Your obedient Servants,
EIRWEN M. JONES,
Medical Officer of Health

A. L. GOOD,
*Chief Sanitary Inspector
and Housing Officer*

SECTION A

Statistics

(1) General

Area (acres)	...	...	...	3,826
Population	...	...	...	13,210
Rateable Value	...	...	...	£110,944
Sum represented by a Penny Rate				£449
Number of inhabited houses			...	4,087
Density of persons per acre			...	3.45
“ “ houses “ “				1.07
Average number of occupants per house	...	...	...	3.23

(2) Vital

	Birth Rate per 1,000 population	Death Rate per 1,000 population	Infantile Mortality Rate Deaths under 1 year per 1,000 Births
England and Wales ...	15.5	11.4	26.8
160 County Boroughs and Great Towns including London ...	17.0	12.2	30.8
160 Smaller Towns (1951 census 25,000 to 50,000) ...	15.7	11.3	24.3
London Administrative County ...	17.5	12.5	24.8
Bishop's Stortford ...	13.6	11.05	38.9

BIRTHS

Number of Legitimate Births	...	...	172
“ “ Illegitimate Births	...	...	8
Percentage of Illegitimate Births		...	4.4
Total number of Births	Males	95	
	Females	85	180

DEATHS

Total Number of Deaths	146
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INFANT MORTALITY

In view of the high Infant Mortality rate for the past year it is felt that detailed comment is indicated. Three infants died within eight hours of birth; two were markedly premature and the third (born to a mother suffering from toxæmia) failed to establish complete respiration. It is interesting to note that no other children died under the age of one month.

The remaining four deaths occurred between the ages of 1 to 7 months; one of these died of a condition inevitably fatal; the second had a congenital defect and did not respond to surgery. Two only died of causes which might have been avoidable.

(3) Mortality Table

Causes of Death					Males	Females	Total
	All Causes	...	...	...	76	70	146
1	Tuberculosis, Respiratory	...	...	...	—	1	1
2	Other forms of Tuberculosis	...	...	...	—	—	—
3	Syphilitic Disease	...	...	...	—	—	—
4	Diphtheria	...	...	...	—	—	—
5	Whooping Cough	...	...	...	—	—	—
6	Meningococcal Infections	...	...	...	—	—	—
7	Acute Poliomyelitis	...	...	...	—	—	—
8	Measles	...	...	...	—	—	—
9	Other Infective and Parasitic Diseases	...	...	...	—	—	—
10	Malignant Neoplasm, Stomach	...	...	...	1	1	2
11	Malignant Neoplasm, Lung, Bronchus	...	...	...	6	—	6
12	Malignant Neoplasm, Breast	...	...	...	—	4	4
13	Malignant Neoplasm, Uterus	...	...	...	—	—	—
14	Other Malignant and Lymphatic Neoplasms	...	...	...	10	3	13
15	Leukaemia, Aleukaemia	...	...	...	—	1	1
16	Diabetes	...	...	...	—	1	1
17	Vascular Lesions of Nervous System	...	...	...	11	9	20
18	Coronary Disease, Angina	...	...	...	9	4	13
19	Hypertension with Heart Disease	...	...	...	3	2	5
20	Other Heart Disease	...	...	...	5	12	17
21	Other Circulatory Disease	...	...	...	4	7	11
22	Influenza	...	...	...	1	1	2
23	Pneumonia	...	...	...	8	6	14
24	Bronchitis	...	...	...	5	4	9
25	Other Diseases of Respiratory System	...	...	...	1	2	3
26	Ulcer of Stomach and Duodenum	...	...	...	1	—	1
27	Gastritis, Enteritis, Diarrhoea	...	...	...	—	2	2
28	Nephritis and Nephrosis	...	...	...	—	—	—
29	Hyperplasia of Prostate	...	...	...	—	—	—
30	Pregnancy, Childbirth and Abortion	...	...	...	—	—	—
31	Congenital Malformations	...	...	...	1	—	1
32	Other defined and ill defined Diseases	...	...	...	7	6	13
33	Motor Vehicle Accidents	...	...	...	—	—	—
34	All other Accidents	...	...	...	1	2	3
35	Suicide	...	...	...	2	2	4
36	Homicide and Operations of War	...	...	...	—	—	—
	Still Births	...	...	...	—	2	2
	Deaths of Infants under 1 year of age (three under 4 weeks of age)	...	...	...	4	3	7

SECTION B

Prevalence of and Control over Infectious and other Diseases

(1) Notifiable Diseases

Notifications of the following infectious diseases were received during the year

	All Ages	Under 1 year	1 - 3	3 - 5	5 - 10	10 - 15	15 - 25	25 - 65	Over 65	Rem. to Hosp.	Deaths
Smallpox ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Diphtheria ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Scarlet Fever ...	18	—	—	1	8	8	1	—	—	—	—
Enteric Fever ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Puerperal Pyrexia ...	21	—	—	—	—	—	13	8	—	21	—
Pneumonia ...	3	—	—	—	—	—	1	2	—	—	—
Ophthalmia Neonatorum ...	5	5	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Erysipelas ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Dysentery ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Cerebro-Spinal Meningitis...	1	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—
Acute Poliomyelitis ...	1	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	1	—
Measles ...	355	8	69	92	161	13	8	4	—	—	—
Whooping Cough ...	34	1	6	9	10	7	1	—	—	—	—
Infectious Hepatitis ...	2	—	—	—	—	—	1	1	—	—	—
Food Poisoning ...	17	3	—	1	1	1	1	10	—	14	—

	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	Apr.	May	June	July	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.
Scarlet Fever ...	1	—	1	6	1	1	1	—	4	1	—	2
Enteric Fever ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Puerperal Pyrexia ...	—	3	3	—	—	3	4	2	5	—	1	—
Pneumonia ...	—	1	1	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	1	—
Acute Poliomyelitis ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Dysentery ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Measles ...	103	32	45	121	19	24	9	—	—	2	—	—
Whooping Cough ...	1	1	—	4	—	2	2	—	9	3	2	10
Infectious Hepatitis ...	—	—	1	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Food Poisoning ...	1	—	—	—	—	—	1	13	1	—	1	—

Once again the district was fortunate in having a good year from the infectious disease angle.

As was expected the biennial measles epidemic occurred during the early months of the year. It was understood that on the whole the measles was mild in type and was not followed by serious sequelae.

Scarlet fever was not a serious problem although the figures were above those of 1952. The cases were mainly sporadic but in a few instances there had been contact in school with children suffering from sore throats who later developed scarlet fever.

A single case of meningococcal meningitis occurred, but neither contacts in the patient's home nor contacts at her work, developed any signs of infection. She was treated in hospital.

Puerperal pyrexia was again mild, and the number notified was reduced. December heralded the commencement of the largest whooping cough epidemic experienced in the town for many years, but it did not reach epidemic proportions during 1953.

(2) Tuberculosis

	MALES		FEMALES	
	Pul.	Non.-P.	Pul.	Non.-P.
Cases on Register at 31.12.52 ...	40	4	29	8
Number of cases notified during year	5	1	6	1
Number of cases restored during year	—	—	—	—
Inward transfer	4	—	3	—
Cases removed	6	—	4	—
Cases on Register at 31.12.53 ...	43	5	34	9

(3) Food Poisoning

Food poisoning was limited to small outbreaks, consisting of 16 cases in all and a solitary case occurred some months later.

Eight of these arose in two related households and were all contacts of a child aged 7 months who was infected with *Salmonella Typhi-Murium*. The original child infected and twins of three months old were removed to hospital and were detained until they were completely free from infection. Very close supervision had to be maintained in the two families affected owing to difficult overcrowded living conditions, and

no case was considered cured until 3 samples of stools at 7 day intervals were found to be negative. Close co-operation between the Health Department and the private practitioners involved was responsible for confining the infection to the two households concerned. The source of infection was not discovered; all foods investigated failed to produce growths of organisms.

Eight cases of infection by *Salmonella Typhi murium* occurred in a local institution. These involved 8 inmates and 2 staff members all of whom had partaken of the same evening meal. Unfortunately no remains of the meal were available. The nursing and other staff had samples of faeces examined but no "carrier" was found.

There would appear that there could have been a link between this second outbreak and the first child who had been detained in the hospital for a few days at the onset of its illness 5 weeks previously, but no such connection could be proved bacteriologically.

A remaining solitary case occurred towards the end of the year in an office worker. She had partaken of the same meals as her family but was the only one affected.

Chloromycetin was used in all cases and the response was good but in one of the hospital cases it was found necessary to give a course of Terramycin.

(4) Poliomyelitis

A single case of poliomyelitis occurred in November, after a completely free year previously, although neighbouring districts had several cases.

The patient concerned was a male aged 34 years, who worked at an airport outside the district. Although he had symptoms he did unfortunately undertake a 36 hour shift of work, 24 hours after symptoms had appeared, and did not call for medical aid until he had been ill for 72 hours.

He was admitted to Hospital and on admission had paralysis of the abdominal muscles. Unfortunately the illness progressed and the patient died four days after admission—seven days after the onset of the illness.

The prolonged shifts of work undertaken by this man undoubtedly contributed to his general fatigue prior to the onset of the illness, and the fact that he continued his occupation after the illness commenced no doubt contributed largely to the severity of the paralysis.

All contacts in the household co-operated and remained well.

(5) Prophylaxis against Whooping Cough, Diphtheria and Smallpox

Arrangements for carrying out Prophylaxis remained the responsibility of the County Council. Whooping Cough Prophylaxis was made available in early May 1953. At the Welfare Clinic an intensive campaign was undertaken to protect the children under 2 years of age and comments on the results will be made in succeeding reports.

(6) Refuse

Refuse continues to be disposed of by tipping on land adjoining the Castle Grounds. During the past year it became possible to complete the collection in a period of 7-10 days.

(7) Drainage and Sewerage

Proposals for a new Sewage system have been further pursued and have been submitted to the Ministry. Work is in progress on the preparation of the necessary documents preparatory to submission to the Ministry for the new Sewage Disposal Works. Once again all the samples of sewage effluent submitted for analysis complied with the standard laid down by the Royal Commission on Sewage Effluent; although it is realised that the disposal system is now well out of date.

(8) Water Supply

The Water Supply is obtained from a borehole and deep wells at the Water Works. Chlorination is satisfactorily carried out. Monthly bacteriological and quarterly chemical and bacteriological tests prove that the water is entirely satisfactory.

Work on the new borehole proceeded during the year. This very useful addition to the water supply would, in all probability, be brought into use during 1954.

(9) Swimming Pool

Eight samples of water were taken from the swimming pool during the summer and submitted to the Public Health Laboratory at Cambridge. All were reported upon as satisfactory.

SECTION C

Health Services available in Bishop's Stortford

NATIONAL HEALTH SERVICE ACT

Part II Hospital and Specialist Services

Bishop's Stortford and District Hospital

Staff: General Practitioners, Consultants and a Resident Medical Officer.

Facilities are available for Medicine, Surgery, Ear, Nose and Throat Diseases, Obstetrics and Gynæcology, Orthopædics, Paediatrics, Physical Medicine and Radiology.

Haymeads Hospital

Staff: Consultants, Registrars and Resident House Officers, Specialist Departments in the following:—Medicine, Surgery, Ear, Nose and Throat Diseases, Obstetrics and Gynæcology, Orthopaedics, Paediatrics, Physical Medicine, Psychiatry, Radiotherapy, Ophthalmology, and Dentistry.

A Pathological Laboratory provides an excellent service at this Hospital.

Part III Services of the Local Health Authority

Hertfordshire

1. Home Nursing.

2. School Health Services consisting of:—
School Medical Inspections.
Clinics.

Speech Clinic.—Wednesday all day, Portland Road Clinic.

Orthodontic Clinic—Two half days monthly. By appointment.

Eye Clinic.—Monday 2—3 p.m. By appointment. Haymeads Hospital. (In conjunction with Hospital Service.)

Minor Ailments.—Every morning 9—10 a.m. Portland Road Clinic.

General Clinic—Second Friday each month. 9.30 to 12.0 noon; Portland Road Clinic.

3. Maternity and Child Welfare Services :—

Health Visiting.
Clinics.

Infant Welfare Clinic.—2nd, 4th Thursday, 10 a.m.—12 noon and every Thursday, 2 p.m. Water Lane Institute. (Facilities are provided for Diphtheria Immunisation and Vaccination).

Ante-Natal Clinic.—1st Friday each month. Portland Road Clinic.

4. Home Help Organisation.

Organiser in Attendance. Tuesday, 10—11 a.m., Thursday, 10—11 a.m., Friday, 2—3 p.m., Portland Road Clinic.

Essex

Infant Welfare Weighing Centre.

2nd Monday each month. The Hut, Beldams Lane.

Part IV General Medical Services

1. General Practitioners :—

Dr. R. P. Gammie	}	20, North St., Bishop's Stortford
Dr. G. G. Holmes		
Dr. G. A. Sharpe		
Dr. I. D. Paterson		
Dr. P. H. Hewitt		

Dr. R. A. Wallace, 40, Hadham Rd., Bishop's Stortford

Dr. E. Leigh, 11, Church Street, Bishop's Stortford

2. Dental Practitioners :—

Mr. J. Dickson	}	The Folly, Hadham Road, Bishop's Stortford
Mr. C. Bullpitt		

Mr. O. N. Catchpole, 6a, North St., Bishop's Stortford

Mr. H. Davies, 14, Bridge Street, Bishop's Stortford

Mr. G. E. Dodd	}	9, Hadham Road, Bishop's Stortford
Mr. W. E. Dodd		
Miss Joan Dodd		

Mr. J. Rawlinson, 39, Hockerill Street,
Bishop's Stortford

Adequate provisions are made in the town for pharmaceutical services.

Voluntary Organisations

Family Planning Association :—

Clinics.—1st, 3rd, and 4th Thursday, each month at 6.30 p.m. 2nd Thursday each month, 10.30 a.m. to 11.00 a.m., Haymeads Hospital.

SECTION D

Sanitary Administration

(1) Inspection of the District

Total number of visits	2,003
Dwelling houses inspected for housing defects ...	89
Revisits to dwelling houses including works in progress	127
Premises inspected on complaint for nuisance other than housing defects	113
Revisits to premises where a nuisance was found to exist	224
Special and miscellaneous visits	60
Interviews with owners, etc. at properties	16
Visits <i>re</i> Infectious Disease and Tuberculosis	38
Visits to Slaughterhouses	3
„ Dairies, Cowsheds, etc.	38
„ Bakehouses	12
„ Butcher's Shops	25
„ Fish Shops	16
„ Cafes and Restaurants	39
„ Ice-cream Premises	27
„ Other Food Shops, Stores, etc.	102
„ Markets	10
„ Factories	54
„ Workplaces, Offices and Shops	3
„ Schools	5
Visits <i>re</i> Petroleum Acts	11
„ Building Byelaws	626
Visits to Stables and Piggeries	4
„ Outworkers' Premises	2
„ Council Houses	92
„ Property requisitioned for housing purposes	12
Visits <i>re</i> Applications for Housing Accommodation	204
Visits to Rat infested premises	34
„ Places of Public Entertainment	4
„ Licensed Premises	13

(2) Complaints and Matters Referred

Complaints received	168
Complaints investigated	161
Complaints referred to other Departments and Authorities	11
Other matters referred to other Departments and Authorities	5

(3) Testing of Drains and Sanitary Fittings

Drains tested with water ...	...	...	...	148
Drains tested with other means ...	...	...	...	6

(4) Notices Served and the Results of the Service of such Notices

(a) Preliminary Notices

	No. Served	No. com- plied with
(i) Dwelling Houses for housing defects ...	178	166
(ii) Premises for other than housing defects ...	10	9
(iii) Special Premises (shops, factories, etc.)	24	17

(b) Statutory Notices—Public Health Act, 1936

	No. Served	No. com- plied with
Section 44 to repair defective water closets ...	2	2
Section 75 to provide a dustbin ...	5	5
Section 93 to abate nuisances ...	2	2

(c) Housing Act, 1936

	No. Served	No. com- plied with
Section 9, Individual Unfit houses ...	1	1
Section 11, Individual unfit houses ...	17	2

N.B.—The number of notices complied with may include notices outstanding from the previous year.

(5) Summary of Sanitary Improvements Effected

	At Dwelling Houses	At Special Premises	At various premises for other than hous- ing defects
Drainage systems repaired, un- stopped, etc.	12	1	—
Water closets repaired, screened, etc.	16	1	—
Water closets reconstructed or new provided	4	—	—
Dampness remedied (roofs, gutters, etc. repaired)	26	—	—
Floors repaired	4	1	—
Sinks and waste pipes renewed or repaired	13	—	—
Windows and doors repaired ..	7	—	—
Ranges, grates, etc., repaired or renewed	7	—	—
Rooms cleansed... ..	5	4	1
Accumulations removed	4	1	3
Dustbins provided	97	9	—
Means of escape in case of fire provided	—	—	—
Washing facilities provided (hot water, etc.)	—	6	—
Miscellaneous	4	—	1

(6) Disinfection and Disinfestation

	Rooms disinfected with Formaldehyde Lamps	Parcels of Bedding passed through Steam Disinfector	Houses disinfested with Hydrogen Cyanide	Houses disinfested by other means	4-oz. Tins of Izal issued	1-pint Bottles of D.D.T. Insecticide issued
Following Infectious Diseases ...	8	—	—	—	—	—
Following other Diseases	—	—	—	—	—	—
Following Vermin Infestation at						
(a) Council Houses	—	—	—	2	2	—
(b) Other Houses	—	—	—	5	4	—
TOTAL	8	—	—	7	6	—

(7) Inspection and Supervision of Food

(a) MILK SUPPLIES

There are five producers of milk in the Urban District and three retailers of milk. Three of the producers are licensed for "Tuberculin Tested" milk, one for "Accredited" milk and the fifth is producing "Non-Designated" milk.

Two of the retailers are licensed to sell "Tuberculin Tested," "Pasteurised" and "Sterilised" milk.

106 samples of bottled milk were submitted for bacteriological examination at the Cambridge Public Health Laboratory and of this number, one was found to be unsatisfactory. These results show that the milk supply is both clean and safe.

Designation	No. of Samples Taken	No. Satis- factory	No. Unsatis- factory
Pasteurised	38	38	—
Tuberculin Tested	—	—	—
Tuberculin Tested Pasteurised	66	65	1
Sterilised	2	2	—

98 of these samples were obtained by the Department and the remaining 8 by officers of other authorities.

54 samples of raw milk were taken from churns on arrival at the Hallingbury Road Dairy and submitted for examination at the Cambridge Public Health Laboratory. 36 of these samples were of raw ungraded milk, 3 being unsatisfactory, and 18 were of raw tuberculin tested milk, two of which were unsatisfactory.

This raw milk is pasteurised at the dairy before delivery to the consumer.

(b) MANUFACTURE AND SALE OF ICE CREAM

The manufacture of ice cream for retail sale has now ceased in Bishop's Stortford and 43 premises are registered for the storage and sale only.

The improvement in the availability of raw materials for the manufacture of ice cream has eliminated the small

manufacturer in the town and, whatever views may be held about this, ice cream is so widely consumed these days that it is better for all, that its production should be left to those firms whose methods and bacteriological control leave little or nothing to be desired.

Bacteriological Examination

4 samples of ice cream were submitted to the Cambridge Public Health Laboratory for bacteriological examination, and all were reported to be grade 1 as shown in the table.

		PROVISIONAL GRADING			
		1	2	3	4
Total number of samples	...	4	—	—	—
Number pre-packed	...	4	—	—	—
Number not pre-packed	...	—	—	—	—

(c) MEAT AND OTHER FOOD INSPECTION

The number of premises subject to inspection under the provisions of the Food and Drugs Act, 1938, at the end of 1953 was as follows:—

Bakehouses	...	...	...	...	7
Butchers' Shops	...	...	...	...	12
Fish Shops	...	...	...	...	7
Other Food Shops	...	...	...	...	59
Cafes and Canteens	...	...	...	...	32
Licensed Premises	...	...	...	...	59
Miscellaneous Food Premises	...	...	...	...	14

The inspection of food premises continued during the year and, as a result of positive action taken by the Local Authority, numerous further structural improvements were effected.

A full report upon the survey would be prepared before the end of 1954.

The quantity of food found unfit for human consumption is tabulated below.

CARCASES INSPECTED AND CONDEMNED

	Calves	Sheep and Lambs	Pigs	Goats
Number Inspected ...	1	—	3	—
All Diseases except Tuberculosis :				
Whole carcases condemned ...	—	—	—	—
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned ...	—	—	—	—
Percentage of number inspected affected with diseases other than Tuberculosis ...	—	—	—	—
Tuberculosis only :				
Whole carcases condemned ...	—	—	—	—
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned ...	—	—	—	—
Percentage of number inspected affected with Tuberculosis ...	—	—	—	—

The practice of examining all animals slaughtered in the district whether for home consumption or by reason of injury or illness, was continued throughout the year and represents a decrease in the number dealt with over the previous year.

DETAILS OF FOODSTUFFS FOUND UNFIT FOR HUMAN CONSUMPTION

Description	Weight or number	Description	Weight or number
Bacon (Imported) ...	804 lbs.	Morfat Whipping ...	2 tins
Beef ...	225½ lbs.	Meat Pastes... ..	3 jars
Brawn ...	14 lbs.	Pork ...	29 lbs.
Brisket Beef ...	14 lbs.	Pea Flour ...	14 pkts.
Corned Beef ...	49¾ lbs.	Prawns ...	40 lbs.
Coconut Ice ...	56 lbs.	Rice ...	112 lbs.
Cream ...	15 tins	Sausages ...	162 lbs.
Fish (Fresh) ...	168 lbs.	Stewed Steak ...	126 lbs.
Fish (Tinned) ...	41 tins	Soups ...	23 tins
Fruit ...	1,388 tins	Suet ...	14 lbs.
Hams (Imported) ...	142 lbs.	Spaghetti ...	7 tins
Jams ...	25 jars	Turkeys ...	436 lbs.
Luncheon Meat ...	67 lbs.	Tongue ...	30½ lbs.
Milk... ..	336 tins	Vegetables ...	341 tins
Minced Beef Loaf ...	22¾ lbs.	Veal ...	20 lbs.
		Winkles ...	3 galls.
		Misc. Foodstuffs ...	65 tins, jars

(8) Rodent Control

The Rodent control service continued during the year on a smooth and steady basis. Infestation was at somewhat the same level as the previous year and the rodent operator can well be satisfied with his unrelenting efforts.

(i) Disinfestation of Sewers

65 manholes on the foul sewerage system were test-baited and "takes" were recorded in only 7 instances. The infestation of the sewers which is by no means serious, occurs chiefly in the Newtown Area. The reasons for this appear to be due to the fact that the sewers in this area are somewhat old and, periodic flooding of the sewers in the lower lying parts of the town during heavy rain, drives the rat population to higher and drier quarters.

As a result of the test baiting two sewer treatments were carried out, the concentration being in the Newtown Area.

(ii) Disinfestation of Surface Properties

Number of Dwelling Houses treated	...	134
„ Business Premises treated	...	136
„ Council Premises treated	...	10
„ Pre-baits laid	... ..	4,863
„ „ partly taken	...	995
„ „ completely taken	...	1,072
„ Poison Baits laid	... ..	2,817
„ „ „ partly taken	...	796
„ „ „ completely taken	...	397
„ Bodies recovered (a) rats	...	199
„ „ „ (b) mice	...	203
Total number of visits made by the operator		2,139

(9) The Storage of Petroleum-Spirit

62 premises are licensed for the storage of petroleum-spirit and were on the register at the end of 1953, an increase of 2.

(10) Factories Act, 1937

54 visits were made to the premises on the Register and it was found necessary in eight instances to serve Informal Notices where contraventions existed.

It was ascertained from the lists submitted by the factory occupiers that there were 17 factory outworkers resident in the district.

Fuller details of visits carried out and defects found and remedied are given in the tables below.

Part I of the Act

1. INSPECTIONS for purposes of provisions as to health

Premises	Number on Register	Inspections	Number of Written Notices	Occupiers Prosecuted
(i) Factories in which Sections 1, 2, 3, 4 and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities ...	20	7	—	—
(ii) Factories not included in (i) in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority	83	37	8	—
(iii) Other Premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding out-workers' premises)	10	10	—	—
TOTAL ...	113	54	8	—

2. CASES in which defects were found

Particulars	No. of cases in which defects were found				Number of cases in which Prosecutions were instituted
	Found	Remedied	Referred to H.M. Inspector	by H.M. Inspector	
Want of cleanliness (s 1) ...	3	3	—	—	—
Overcrowding (s 2) ...	—	—	—	—	—
Unreasonable temperature (s 3) ...	—	—	—	—	—
Inadequate ventilation (s 4) ...	—	—	—	—	—
Ineffective drainage of floors (s 6) ...	—	—	—	—	—
Sanitary Conveniences (s 7) :					
(a) insufficient ...	—	—	—	—	—
(b) unsuitable or defective ...	6	6	—	—	—
(c) not separate for sexes ...	—	—	—	—	—
Other offences against the Act (not including offences relating to Outwork) ...	—	—	—	—	—
TOTAL ...	9	9	—	—	—

(11) Housing

Number of new houses erected during the year :—

(a) By the Local Authority ... 92

(b) By Private Enterprise ... 54

Number of houses made available by conversion or adaptation of existing buildings 2

The construction of new houses both by the Local Authority and by private enterprise was on a much larger scale than the previous year.

The allocation of Council houses based on the new Points Scheme continued to work smoothly and well.

Three individual unfit houses were rendered fit during the year as a result of action taken under the appropriate

sections of the Housing Act, 1936. A total of 18 formal notices were served, one under Section 9. and 17 under Section 11.

Seven houses in respect of which Demolition Orders were operative were demolished during 1953.

The total number of applications for housing accommodation on the File at 31st December 1953, was 344 including 68 applications for aged persons' bungalows.

This compares with a figure of 473 applications at the end of 1952.

